



Mark Jankowski: Minnesota Pollution Control Agency

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Mark Jankowski now at Minnesota Pollution Control Agency

Mark Jankowski worked at the Lab twice: first after his Master's degree around the turn of the century and then again as a postdoc student for three years until 2011. During his first stint he worked on environmental issues related to the Radioactive Liquid Waste Treatment Facility. During his second time here, his research focused on understanding the receptors in the respiratory system and gut of birds as it relates to avian flu. At his current position, as a Research Ecotoxicologist at the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, he studies the effect of environmental contaminants such as human prescriptions (such as antidepressants) and other personal care products on the aquatic life in the region. This research helps assess the little-known interactions between low levels of these potentially endocrine-altering substances on regional fish and wildlife. In looking back at his time at the Lab, Jankowski made note of the almost exhaustive experience he got writing proposals. "Through my collaborations at the Lab I not only had an opportunity to write and get feedback on a number of proposals but also learned the value of incorporating fields outside of my own into the work," said Jankowski. "A strong biology proposal is one thing but a proposal that integrates biology, chemistry and physics help makes a valid proposal even stronger in the eyes of potential funders." While Jankowski no longer works at the Lab, he continues to collaborate with his former mentor, Jeanne Fair (Emerging Threats), producing papers on topics such as Birds Shed RNA-Viruses According to the Pareto Principle. In addition to working with Fair, Jankowski also still partners with Rashi Iyer (Systems Analysis and Surveillance) on topics related to nanoparticles whose study could help to better understand what makes human respiratory cells more susceptible to influenza infection. To learn more about Jankowski, visit his [LinkedIn page](#).

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